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6 December 1962

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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DAILY BRIEF

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*USSR-Cuba: The USSR appears to be removing IL-28 jet bombers from Cuba in accordance with the schedule outlined by Deputy Foreign Minister Kuznetsov at the United Nations on 4 December.

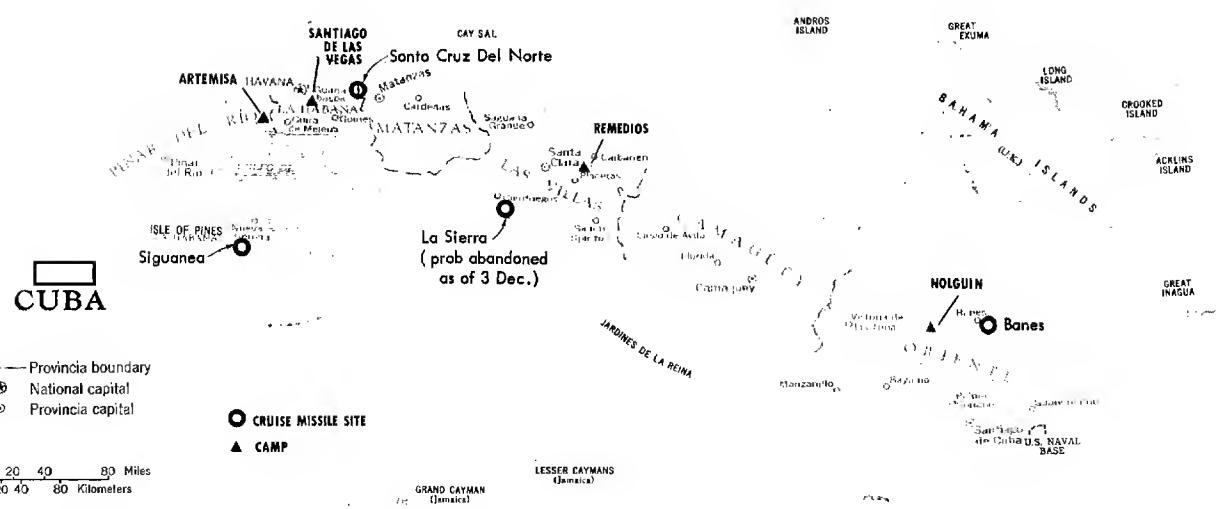
As of 5 December, at least one and probably two Soviet ships had departed from Cuba with deck-loads totaling 27 bomber fuselages. According to Kuznetsov's statement, the remaining 15 fuselages are to be loaded on a third vessel and shipped out on 6 or 7 December.

The total of 42 bombers cited by the Soviets corresponds precisely with the number photographed. There is no evidence suggesting that a higher number had been delivered.

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*Cuba--Missile Site: One of the four confirmed coastal defense cruise missile sites set up in Cuba by the Soviet Union has been either abandoned or relocated.

Photographic reconnaissance of 2 and 3 December reveals that the cruise missile site at La Sierra, near Cienfuegos in Las Villas Province, has apparently been abandoned. No missiles or missile-associated equipment remain there and the only remnant of the site is an earthen revetment which is empty. There is no evidence that the site is being set up at any more favorable location in the same general area.

The other three coastal defense cruise missile sites have undergone no recent change and there is no sign that these are being abandoned. These are located at Siguanea on the Isle of Pines, at Santa Cruz del Norte, near Havana and at Banes, in Oriente Province.

Soviet convoys transporting construction materials had been observed recently near Cuban airfields at San Antonio de los Banos and Santa Clara. This information could reflect the construction of additional aircraft revetments which has been evident in recent photography of both airfields.

Aerial photography also confirms that construction of permanent facilities is continuing at the Soviet military encampments near Remedios and Artemisa.

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Laos: The transfer of ten Soviet airlift aircraft to the Souvanna government will give the coalition regime increased flexibility in logistic operations.

The Soviet Union has supplied nine transports and one helicopter, with crews and maintenance personnel. Souvanna intends to use the aircraft to supply outlying forces. As they will become Lao government property, a commission representing the three Lao factions presumably will control them.

Pathet Lao leader Souphanouvong has suggested to Ambassador Unger that the US, too, should place some aircraft at the disposal of the coalition. Souphanouvong has also suggested that to avoid incidents US aircraft now operating under a personal arrangement with Souvanna should fly only over undisputed rightist territory.

The Pathet Lao may be intending in this way to restrict airlift operations under sole US sponsorship. The Pathet Lao mainly want to cut aid to substantial Meo guerrilla forces scattered throughout areas of northern and central Laos nominally controlled by the Communists.

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Argentina: There are persistent reports that another coup d'etat may be attempted by elements of the armed forces, despite the efforts of key military leaders to maintain support for constitutional government.

The forced ouster of Economics Minister Also-garay on 4 December, as a result of pressure from business, labor, and military circles, highlights the growing dissatisfaction with the Guido regime which has failed to stem the downward spiral of the economic situation.

Interior Minister Martinez has assured the US ambassador that the government is aware of the plotting in the services, including a coup attempt said to be scheduled for this week, and is taking counter-measures. The ambassador notes, however, a growing feeling in Argentina that any new government would be better than the ineffective Guido regime.

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*Congo: Members of Adoula's inner circle are considering the dismissal of parliament and other measures to maintain Adoula in office with military support.

They are greatly concerned that if they do not act the parliamentary opposition will soon topple Adoula or win a predominant influence in his regime. They consider that assurances of financial assistance and military equipment from the US would be essential for a successful move.

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Two members of the group, Albert Ndele, governor of the Congo bank, and Victor Nendaka, chief of the sureté, believe that Congo army chief General Mobutu and other army officers would support such a move if there were no other way to resolve the crisis. Army support apparently is conditioned on the promise of US military equipment. Ndele and Nendaka believe that Defense Minister Anany, who is influential in army circles, would support them, and that President Kasavubu--although he has to date opposed suggestions that parliament be dissolved--would support them if the alternative were an extremist takeover.

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Members of the group intend to discuss their plans with Adoula; previous remarks by them, however, indicate that they might act without his approval.

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Belgium - Congo. The Belgian cabinet has given reluctant approval to Foreign Minister Spaak's commitment to support economic sanctions, if necessary, to force the end of the Katanga secession. Spaak is concerned, however, that the increasing "militancy" of various Belgian elements against his Congo policy, as exemplified in the 3 December white-settler riots in Elisabethville, may hinder the implementation of parliamentary approval of his policy. 25X1

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Venezuela: Venezuelan Communist Party (PCV) plans call for increased emphasis on violence and armed action, 25X1

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Rafael Martinez--a top PCV paramilitary leader--recently visited Cuba and Communist leaders in other Latin American countries and Europe, reportedly to procure aid for a renewed antigovernment campaign which may begin in mid-December. 25X1

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